

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

The action by the Examiner in this application, together with the reference cited by him, has been given careful consideration. Following such consideration, claims 1-3 have been amended to define more clearly the patentable invention the Applicant believes is disclosed herein. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the claims in their present form, together with the following comments, and allow the application.

By way of background, the present invention relates to a "connection structure," i.e., assembly, that is used to connect induction line covers that cover induction lines in a non-contact power system. The connection structure is comprised of at least one (1) "induction line cover," and a "cover joining member." The cover joining member is designed to receive the engaging sections of two induction line covers. The cover joining member is designed and dimensioned wherein the outer profile of the cover joining member is within the "extent of an outer diameter of the cylinder-shaped section" of the induction line covers. In this respect, the overall height of the "cover joining member," designated 71 in the drawings, is less than the overall height of the outer diameter of the induction line cover, designated 21 in the drawings. Support for this limitation is found in paragraph [0044] of the application, and can be seen in FIG. 1.

In response to the Examiner's comments, claim 1 has been amended to define "an induction-line-cover connection structure." The claim has further been amended to indicate that the "induction-line-cover connection structure" is comprised of an induction line cover and a cover joining member. Other minor amendments to claim 1 have been made to more clearly

identify the structure of the induction line cover, as well as the structure of the cover joining member.

It is believed that the amendments to the claims overcome the Section 112 objections raised by the Examiner.

The claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Reference No. 6153305. The '305 reference discloses a cover joining member 29 that covers an induction line cover 33 to prevent its ends from opening. As best seen in FIG. 5 of the '305 reference, this joining member 29 increases the overall dimensions of the induction line cover in the vicinity of the joining member 29. In this respect, the joining member 29 disclosed in the '305 patent increases the likelihood that the pickup coils on the moving body may interfere with the induction line cover joining member 29.

With respect to element 31 of the '305 reference (noted by the Examiner in the Office Action), Applicant respectfully submits that this element is not a portion of the joining member, but rather is a hanger (corresponding to hanger 13 of the present invention), as can be seen in FIG. 3A of the '305 reference.

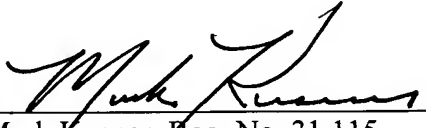
As indicated above, the "cover joining member" set forth in the claims is designed to capture "engaging sections" of the induction line cover and is sized to remain within the extent of the outer diameter of the cylindrical section or portion of the induction line cover. It is respectfully submitted that since the '305 reference discloses a joining member that wraps around the outer periphery of the induction line cover, it cannot meet the foregoing limitations currently set forth in claim 1.

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For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as presently amended are distinguishable from the '305 reference. Favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referenced as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the below date with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: April 21, 2005


Christine Goellner